Pageant of Palos

Property of WILLIAM and FLORA RICHARDSON



Pageant of Palos

PRESENTED BY

The People of Palos Township

Saturday Afternoon, September 16, 1916

AT

Palos Park, Illinois

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF

The Palos Improvement Club



Book of the Pageant by
HATTIE SINNARD PASHLEY AND ELEANOR REESE DUNN



THE STAGE

FOREWORD

Palos Township was organized in 1850, and was part of the "York Precinct" which embraced four other townships. It was at first called Trenton, but the name was changed to Palos before the first regular township election.

The first permanent settlers, however, of what is now Palos Township, came about 1832, and their descendants form a large part of the present citizenship of the township; but investigations show that Palos has a much earlier history. The four old forts and breastworks, the remains of which still mark their sites, although great trees have grown up within their confines, together with the ancient relics found around and about them, tell a story older than the memory of the first permanent settlers. The Pageant will endeavor to tell this story, interweaving old neighborhood traditions, and portraying events as truly and accurately as the limitations of the play will allow.

The principal characters in the play (except in the first episode) will be taken by descendants of the first permanent settlers and those born in Palos Township whose cooperation and help have made this Pageant possible.

Grateful acknowledgment is herewith made to Miss Caroline M. McIlvaine and her assistants at the Chicago Historical Society, the Chicago Public Library, the Drama League of America, the Chicago Press, Mr. Jens Jensen, Mr. P. Douglas Bird, Mr. Charles W. Pierce, Mr. C. E. Stouder, Mr. Johnson Wilson, Mrs. Mercy Harrington Hume, Mr. M. J. Chandler, Mr. Thomas Wood Stevens, Mr. Arthur L. Bradley, Mr. Charles R. Chilvers, and The Chicago Sharpshooters' Association for their kindness and invaluable help.

INVOCATION

Draw back, O Mem'ry, the curtain of Time; Lift up the soft mists till we see The far-off hills and the valleys between, With streams winding on to the sea.

Let music's silver strings—silenced awhile—
Bring back the lost charm of a day,
When lovelight lingered in Youth's trusting eyes,
And sweet, mystic dreams held their sway.
Draw thunder's roar from the battle's wild storm!
With reverent touch play the strings,
Till out afar from the distant sky, comes
The dove with its white, peaceful wings.
Weave laurel chaplets of green for their crowns,
Whose courage-blazed trail points the way,
Through forest tangle and night-shade's grim dread,

Fold back, then, Mem'ry, the magical veil, Revealing the lost as they come With arms of love bearing sacrifice, brought To burn on the altars of Home.

To joys of a full, perfect day.

Dancers

Miss Dorothy Ostrander,

Mrs. Edward M. Tourtelot, Mrs. Bertram W. Rosenstone, Mrs. Thomas Quin, Mrs. Herman Hanink, Mrs. George B. Ward, Ellen Gleason, Mrs. Herbert S. Ripley, Miss Ella Virginia Tourtelot, Miss Elizabeth Reese, Miss Vera Lund, Miss Elsa Lund, Miss Charlotte Munch, Miss Elizabeth Munch, Miss Elsie Preller, Miss Helen Schussler, Miss Mamie Lucas, Miss Cecelia Lucas, Miss Annie Busch, Miss Gladys Munch, Miss Helen Munch, Miss Hertha Claussen, Margaret Markiewicz, Katharine Grotz, Miss Fern Bumstead, Miss Blenda Thorsell, Miss Marie McMahon, Miss Catherine McMahon, Miss Pansy Powers, and Miss Harriet Pashley.

EPISODE I. THE COMING OF THE FRENCH (1673)

Action. The Indians are preparing for their annual festival of thanksgiving, which they celebrate in the Green Corn Dance. They are interrupted by an Indian runner who announces the coming of the Frenchmen. As the canoes approach, the chiefs advance to meet them, bearing their calumets aloft. The French land and are escorted to camp by the Indians. Here all smoke the pipe of peace. The missionary, taking advantage of the peaceful mood of the Indians, exhorts them and plants the Cross. The fur traders improve the opportunity to "dicker" with the squaws. When the French leave, the Indians break camp and accompany them on their journey.

CAST

MISSIONARY
Explorer
Fur Traders
INDIAN GUIDE
CHIEFS—Mr. S. F. Klohs, Mr. Jacob Rodatz, Mr. Adolph C. W.
Grasshoff.
Medicine Man
PIPE BEARER
Indian Runner
INDIANS-Mr. L. G. Spencer, Mr. A. G. Lund, Mr. William
Murphy, Mr. Edward Ledgard, Mr. Richard S. Mc-
Claughry, Mr. Frederick Monroe, Mr. Harold Lund, Mr.
Alessandro Rossi, Mr. George Gray Victor Cassell, Daniel
Neff.
INDIAN CHILDREN-Bernard Schofield, Jeremiah Quin, Dougal

McKenzie, Franklin Hyink, John Monroe, Jack Rosenstone, Henry Ripley, Ned Tourtelot, Arnold McKenzie, Colon McKenzie, Bertram W. Rosenstone, Jr.

Indian Women—Mrs. Ezra McClaughry, Mrs. S. F. Klohs, Mrs. Adolph C. W. Grasshoff, Mrs. Edward Ledyard, Miss Grace Fenno, Miss Charlotte Arnold, Miss Hazel Nelson, Miss Irma Nelson.

SQUAW WITH PAPOOSE......Mrs. Benjamin F. Hyink

Historical Basis. Historians have held various opinions regarding the routes taken by the early French explorers, missionaries and traders from the Great Lakes to the Mississippi and its tributaries. Crude and inaccurate maps have been the guide, and much has been taken for granted by

writers who have never been over the land and waterways. But recent interest awakened in individual local history is bringing close and careful investigations for the purpose of unearthing convincing proofs of historical "probabilities."

Palos Township can lay claim to the distinction of having afforded a passage for Joliet and Father Marquette on their return from exploring the Mississippi in 1673. The Sagaunaskee Swamp, threaded by the stream now known as the "Canal Feeder," made a waterway to Stony Brook at Blue Island, which, by short portage, connected with the Calumet River and thence to Lake Michigan. (See Andreas' History of Cook County, pages 37 and 46 to 60; Blanchard's History of Illinois, page 97; also Moses' Illinois Historical and Statistical, pages 77 to 79.) The ruins of old fortifications on the hills above the "Sag" valley and to the north, and the antique French relics* found in their locality, together with the great number of Indian relics and other evidences of Indian life, the chipping stations, burial grounds,† and the network of Indian trails, show that great bodies of Indians had their villages in the environs of the Palos hills, hunted in the woods, and carried on warfare and trade with the French long ago, and leads to the belief that this route was one used by the French as early as 1673, and that posts were established here at that time for protection of life and trade.

^{*}Two antique French axes were found on the farm of Theodore Lucas, near one of the old forts. A French copper powderhorn of antique design was found on the Thomas Kelly farm north of the "Feeder," in 1856, beside the skeleton of a man whose gun barrel was rusted through, the wood entirely gone. Mr. Kelly has two steel shoe soles such as were used by the French soldiers. Many years ago old French money was found in the hollow of a tree trunk in the Lintz woods, south of the Feeder.

[†]A few years ago, in a gravel pit on the Gleason farm, south of the Feeder, a skeleton was uncovered which, in the opinion of the anthropologists of the Field Columbian Museum, was that of a pre-historic Indian chief from the Lake Superior region. He had been buried in a sitting position, his dog and weapons with him. Around the neck were hammered copper beads. A blanket, still retaining bright colors, disintegrated when exposed to the air.



THE SETTLERS ARRIVE

EPISODE II. THE EARLY SETTLERS (About 1833)

Action. The settlers arrive from the East in prairie schooners. They are pleased with the location and the soil and plan to take up land in this vicinity. While preparing the evening meal and congratulating themselves on having made the long journey in safety, they are startled by the sudden appearance of an Indian. He makes signs of friendship, however, and in the same manner makes known to them that he is come to warn them of the approach of hostile savages. The settlers have barely time to gather up their belongings when the warwhoop resounds in the distance. With all possible haste they scramble into the schooners, lash their horses and flee in the direction of the fort. Two of their number are captured, but later make their escape.

CAST

Settlers—Mr. Norman Powell, Mr. Nathaniel Boyce,† Mr. Winslow Mahaffay, Mr. Dow Pettijohn, Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy McClaughry, Mr. and Mrs. John McCord, Mr. and Mrs. Frank C. Mahaffay, Mr. and Mrs. Ezra McClaughry, Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Traub, Richard and James McClaughry, Mr. John Bush, Mrs. William

Macauly, Ira McCord, King McCord, eight Mahaffay children, Margaret Macauly, Henry Pettijohn, Lucy Pettijohn, Marjorie Traub, Marion Traub, Mrs. A. Willard.

Historical Basis. The first permanent white settlers of what is now Palos Township came in 1833 and "squatted" on government land which they afterwards purchased. Many Indians sill remained in the locality and were close neighbors of these pioneers. During the horrors attending Black Hawk's War, the year before, two families, living in Will County, toward Hickory Creek, and who shortly afterwards moved into Palos, heeding the warning of Waupanoosa, a friendly Indian, took refuge in Fort Dearborn. On their way to the fort they came through Palos, camping at "Bush's Slough." In their flight, two of the men were captured, but made their escape. They had been fastened down, hands and feet, by buckskin thongs tied to stakes driven in the ground, and left unguarded while their captors slept. During the night it rained and the thong on the right hand of the younger man stretched sufficiently to allow his hand to slip out. He quickly untied the other, and freed his father, who had been wounded in the breast by buckshot; then, taking a loaded gun from the sleeping savages, he assisted the older man into the woods. After nine days and nights of wandering and hiding, during which time they subsisted only on berries, roots and water from the springs, they reached Fort Dearborn. Another family, living at "Yankee Settlement," also in Will County, fled to Fort Dearborn, coming through Palos on their way. One of these. a little girl eight years old at the time, afterwards married one of the early settlers of Palos. She is still living in the township, and is now nearly ninety-two years of age.*

There is still another early settler living who has been a resident of Palos since 1837, and who will take part in this

episode.

The cast in this episode otherwise, excepting the Indians, is made up of the descendants of the first settlers. Some of the clothes worn belonged to the great-grandparents of those playing parts.

^{*}Mary Ritchey Bush, widow of Lewis Bush is one of the few, if not the only one, now living of those who took refuge in Fort Dearborn during Black Hawk's War.
†The first white child born in Palos, as far as is known.



THE HOME OF A FIRST SETTLER

EPISODE III. PEACEFUL TIMES Scene 1

Action. The woodchoppers are returning from their day's work to the settlement. A new house has just been completed and preparations for a housewarming are in progress. The wife, on her way to the pond for water, discovers baby wolves. She hastens to show them to her husband. Together they rejoice over this good fortune.

The neighors arrive for the festivities. When the host sees their number, he refuses to allow so many people to dance in his new house. They greet his remarks with laughter and arrange to dance on the green.

CAS

CAST

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Mahaffay, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Butcher, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Pantke, Mrs. Martha Decker Howell, Miss Jane Gray, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Elliot, Mr. Lester B. Decker, Mr. Winslow Mahaffay, Mr. Maurice Powers, Mr. Daniel Sullivan, Mr. George Mikelson, Mr. Joseph Blatch, Mr. and Mrs. William Macauly, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Leipstorpf, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Biedenkopf, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Grange, Mrs. Walter Patrick, Miss Mabel and Miss Esther Elliot, Miss Elsie Mikelson.

Historical Basis. The demand for labor in the construction of the old Illinois & Michigan Canal brought new settles to Palos from the Eastern states, from Germany, and also from Ireland at the time of the potato famine. The great first growth woods also afforded an additional industry. Woodchoppers' cabins dotted the hills and slopes of "Smoky Hollow," while the giant trees were being felled and cut into spiles and cordwood to be used for household fuel for Chicago settlers, and for power for the first railway locomotives running out of Chicago. Farming and stock-raising, too, increased as the ground became cleared.

The implements and tools for carrying on these industries were scarce and expensive. It is told that in the early days, when the County was offering a bounty for wolf pelts, one of the pioneer women of Palos, finding a nest of baby wolves in the woods, gathered them in her apron and carried them home. After properly preparing the pelts, she received eighty dollars for them, with which she purchased a new farm wagon. (This woman is represented in the

scene by her granddaughter.)

It was not all hardship and labor, however, for the "housewarmings" and neighborhood dances were happy diversions in the lives of the Palos pioneers. The story goes that, at the completion of one of the new houses, when the guests had gathered for the housewarming, the master of the house suddenly decided that the house was too new and fine for such frivolity, and refused to let them dance. Finally the guests were obliged to do their dancing elsewhere.

It was the custom for the women to bring their work with them to these neighborhood gatherings. The spinning-wheel in the scene is from the home of one of the first

settlers.

The first musician is one of the original "fiddlers" for these dances, and others in the scene are descendants of the early settlers, and those born in Palos

Scene 2

Action. The settlers, dressed in their Sunday best, attend church.

CAST

Mr. A. Robson, Mr. J. W. Mahaffay, Mr. R. J. Haight, Mr. S. J. Cassell, Mrs. J. W. Mahaffay, Mrs. Frank Mahaffay, Miss Charlotte Arnold, Miss Emma Hyink, Miss Cora Hyink.

.Historical Basis. The religious element was strong in the Palos pioneers. Before the Sacred Heart parish was formed, the Catholic families attended service at the old Sag church. The Protestant families held services in the old schoolhouse, their first preachers being unordained, usually one of the neighborhood.

"GUIDE ME, O THOU GREAT JEHOVAH"

(Tune, "Zion")

"Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah, Pilgrim through this barren land; I am weak, but Thou art mighty; Hold me with Thy powerful hand; Bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, .
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Bear me through the swelling current,
Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises,
I will ever give to Thee."

"OLD HUNDRED"

"Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost."

INTERLUDE-Medley of old school songs.

Scene 3

Action. The children loiter, then as now, on their way to school.

CAST

School Children.

Historical Basis. The first school in Palos Township was held in 1838 in a "lean-to" against the house of one of the pioneers. The first schoolhouse in the township was built of logs, in Section 28, in 1840. These early schoolhouses were so small that, as one of the former pupils expressed it, "We were as close as herrings in a keg."

INTERLUDE—Medley of War Songs.

EPISODE IV. THE CALL TO ARMS

Action. The note of the bugle announces a "War Meeting." Old and young respond—fathers, mothers and children. When the call for recruits is made the young men eagerly offer themselves.

CAST

Mr. Herbert Snider, Richard S. McClaughry, Gordon Powell, Ira McCord, John Humphrey, Maxwell May, Charles Feter Busch, Albert John Busch, Walter Munch, Henry Munch, Henry Oberst, Francis Caraher, Harold Lund, Fred Claussen, Christ Grotz, Leslie Powers, Peter Lucas, Daniel Neff, Frederick Monroe, George Uthe, Allessandro Rossi, Victor Cassell, Walter R. Schussler, Lester Mahaffay, Joseph Teason, John Busch, Henry Busch, Clyde Schultz, Mrs. Herbert B. Snider, Mrs. Clyde Schultz, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Mahaffay, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Hecht, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Munch, Mr. Leroy McClaughry, Miss Helen Campbell, Mrs. Ezra McClaughry, Mrs. Albert Loebe, Mrs. Matthew Gleason, William Edward Mahaffay.

Historical Basis. Palos contributed her generous share toward the defence of our country, and was among the first to send recruits to the Civil War. War meetings were of frequent occurrence at the beginning of the war and a recruiting station was established at the old schoolhouse. Company G of the Thirty-ninth Illinois, called "Preachers' Company," and Company F of the One Hundredth Illinois, were largely made up of men from Palos. Among the songs sung in Palos at the time, the popular ones were, "Take Your Gun and Go, John," and "Stone River."

"TAKE YOUR GUN AND GO, JOHN"

By H. T. MERRILL

"Don't stop a moment to think, John,
Our country calls, then go.
Don't fear for me nor the children, John,
I'll care for them, you know!
Leave the corn upon the stalk, John;
The fruit upon the tree,
And all our little stores, John,
Yes, leave them all to me.

CHORUS

"Then take your gun and go, John,
Take your gun and go,
For Ruth can drive the oxen, John,
And I can use the hoe.

"I've heard my grandsire tell, John,
He fought at Bunker Hill,

He counted all his life and wealth
His country's off'ring still,
Would I shame the brave old blood, John,
That flowed on Monmouth plain?
No! take your gun and go, John,
Tho' I ne'er see you again.

"The army's short of blankets, John,
Then take this heavy pair,
I spun and wove them when a girl,
And worked them with great care.
A rose in every corner, John;
And here's my name, you see!
On the cold ground they'll warmer feel,
Because they're made by me."

STONE RIVER

By George Grange

(Composed while on picket duty at Stone River.)

'Tis midnight, and the twinkling stars
Shine brightly from on high,
And not a cloud is shadowing now
The warlike Southern sky.
I'm stationed in a cedar grove,
The picket-post to stand,
And list'ning to the stealthy tread
Of traitors close at hand.

CHORUS

How many thousands gone to rest! We know that they are free, Their bodies mouldering in the dust On the plains of Tennessee.

I see their livening camp fires now
Upon the distant hill,
And hear the screech-owl's dismal cry,
And feel more lonely still,
I hear the groans of wounded men
That still lie on the field,
And many more my eyes can see,
With lips forever sealed.

CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS WHO ENLISTED FROM PALOS AND VICINITY

Thirty-ninth, Illinois, Company C

James M. Harrington, 2nd
Lieutenant.
Steven L. Harrington, Sergt.
John J. Hawkins, Corp.
Albert Bushnell.
Frederick Brush.
Jesse Chatfield.
Lester B. Decker.
Louis Fuder.
Thomas Humphrey, Color
Bearer.
James Pettijohn
James H. Reeves
Stephen C. Reed.
Almon L. Schermerhorn.
Matthew Wells

William C. W. Williams. George Brown. Christopher Crandall. J. Bouton. Wm. Bouton. Alonzo Truer. William Mahaffay. John McClaughry. Andrew McCord. Matthew McClaughry. · John Mason. Isaac Mason Timothy Mason. Mark Pettijohn. Michael Powers. Patrick Scanlon. William Taylor.

One Hundredth, Illinois, Company F

Richard S. McClaughry,
Capt.
John Powell, 2nd Lieutenant.
Peter Blasch.
Freeman Bliss.
Timothy Braudy.
Mark Burroughs.
Nelson Bush.
William Powenridge.
William Briggs.
Dennis Curran.

Sidney Campbell,
John Campbell.
Edward Flannery.
Louis Decker.
James Gleason, Sergt.
Charles Green.
James Heatherwick.
Jefferson Harrington.
John Mallon.
James Mahaffay.
George Grange.

S. I. Treat.

Eightieth, Illinois Thomas McClaughry

Eighty-eighth Illinois Franklin Bushnell

Interlude—Medley of Plantation Songs.



OLD FORT ON SIGNAL HILL

EPISODE V. THE FUGITIVE

Action. A negro, skulking behind trees, sees a farmer approach, and running out, begs him to help him on his way. The farmer, wishing to keep out of trouble, at first refuses. He is moved, however, by the negro's song of entreaty, and suddenly hearing the sound of a horse's hoofs, loses all hesitation, and hides the fugitive under the hay. The horseman accosts the farmer, but receiving no information regarding the runaway, proceeds on his way.

CAST

FUGITIVE	Mr.	Samuel J.	Cassell
FARMER	Mr	Matthew	Gleason
Horseman	M1	. William	Murphy

Historical Basis. Tradition tells us that runaway slaves found sympathizers in this region who helped them on their way to Canada.

"OLD SHADY"

"Oh! yah, yah! darkies, laugh wid me! For de white folks say Ole Shady am free. So don't you see dat de Jubilee Am a-comin'?—Hail mighty day!

CHORUS

"Den away, away, for I can't stay any longer; Hooray! Hooray! for I's a-gwine home! Den away, away, for I can't wait any longer; Hooray! Hooray! for I's a-gwine home!

"Good-bye, hard work, wid neber any pay; I's a-gwine up Norf, wha'r de good folks say Dat white wheat bread an' a dollar a day Am a-coming', comin'!—Hail mighty day!

"Oh! I's got a wife, an' she'm got a baby, 'Way up Norf in Lower Canady; Oh! won't dey laugh when dey see Ole Shady A-comin', comin'!—Hail mighty day!"

EPISODE VI. THE RETURN

Action. The women and children are waiting to greet the returning soldiers. They are reading a letter containing bad news. One of the soldiers brings a message to the widow of his dead comrade.

CAST

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Hecht, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Munch, Mr. Leroy McClaughry, Mr. Winslow Mahaffay, Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Gleason, Miss Helen Campbell, Mrs. Albert Loebe, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Mahaffay, Miss Ellen Gleason, Miss Catherine Gleason, Mr. James Steven, and some of the soldiers in Episode IV.

Historical Basis. A number of the soldier boys who marched away came back, some wounded, while others were left sleeping in Southern graves. As no railroad ran through Palos in 1865, the farmers drove to Lockport and Blue Island and brought home the returning heroes who told and retold the tragic stories of Murfreesboro, Drury's Bluff, Bermuda Hundred, Chicamauga, and Lookout Moun-

A soldier in Company G, Thirty-ninth Illinois, as he lay dying on the battlefield at Murfreesboro, commended his wife and children to the care of his comrade, who, after the war married the widow, and for more than forty years faithfully fulfilled the promise made to his friend.

One veteran from the Thirty-ninth Illinois, Company G, Lester B. Decker, and one from the One Hundredth Illinois. Company F, James Heatherwick, still live in Palos. Other veterans moving in since the war who are still living are H. F. Keene, Twenty-third Pennsylvania, Company H, and U. S. Sixth Cavalry, Company H; Iohn Irvine, Twenty-fifth Missouri, Company G; John Schofield, Corp., First Delaware Cavalry, Company F; and John Cox, One Hundred and Thirty-fourth Illinois, Company K.
"Uncle Silas" Brown, body-guard to General James

Henry Lane of the Confederate Army, is a resident of

Palos.

FINALE. THE FUTURE

The Dance of The Dawn

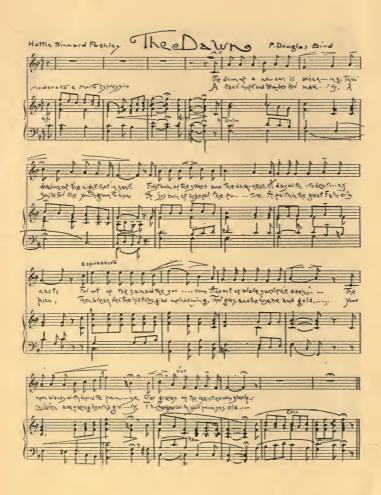
(Solo-Mrs. Benjamin F. Hyink.)

Dancers — Hertha Claussen, Fern Eumstead, Florence Briggs, Frances Briggs, Katherine Busch, Antoinette Bruzek, Marie Bohn, Edna Cowan, Anna Cowan, Margaret Grotz, Marcella Einarson, Loretta Lucas, Evelyn Mahaffay, Ethelyn Mahaffay, Julia Martin, Emily Martin, Mary Murphy, Marjorie Traub, Marion Traub, Gladys Thomas, Margaret Markiewicz, Clarise Mahaffay.

THE DAWN

The dawn of a new day is breaking
Through dreams of the night that is past;
First-born of the stress and the darkness,
A day with its destiny cast.
For out of the pain and the sorrow,
And out of brave sacrifice deep,
The morn blends with infinite promise
O'er graves of the sainted who sleep.

A tear, soft and tender, for mem'ry,
A smile for the youth grown to man,
A joy born of Hope, for the future,
A faith in the Great Father's plan.
Then break o'er the hilltops, glad morning,
Through gray, and the rose-hue, and gold,
Your children are facing heav'n's glory,
Full-charged with your promises old.



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